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RETAIL PRICES AND BASIC WAGE RATES - JUNE QUARTER, 1962

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly for each capital city separately the variations in prices of commodities and services as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households. Commodities and services included in the index are food, clothing, drapery, home ownership, rent of privately owned and government owned houses, fuel, light, household appliances and supplies, fares, motoring, tobacco, cigarettes, beer, cinema, radio and television licenses, newspapers, postal and telephone services, hairdressing, dry cleaning, and various other items.

The various commodities and services have been combined into groups, and group indexes are available for Food, Clothing and Drapery, Housing, Household Supplies and Equipment, and Miscellaneous.

The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city. The base of the index for each capital city and for the weighted average, six capitals, is year 1952-53 = 100.0. Group indexes also have separate bases for each group.

The Brisbane Consumer Price Index dropped to 127.3 in June quarter, 1962, from 127.7 in March quarter, 1962, a decrease of 0.3 per cent. compared with an increase in the previous quarter of 0.5 per cent. The increase over the year ended June, 1962, was 1.0 per cent.

The Food Group was mainly responsible for the lower All Groups index in June quarter. Decreased prices for meat and potatoes, partially offset by increased egg prices, were principally responsible for the group index movement from 131.4 to 129.4, a decrease of 1.5 per cent.

There was no movement in the Clothing and Drapery Group index during the quarter. The index number remained at 116.8.

In the Housing Group there was an increase of 1.1 per cent. during June quarter, 1962, the main reason for this being higher rents of privately owned houses.

There were no significant price changes for individual items in the Household Supplies and Equipment Group, but a number of small price changes resulted in a decrease in the index of 0.2 per cent., from 113.2 to 113.0.

The Miscellaneous Group index number of 134.3 remained unaltered during the quarter.

Brisbane, Adelaide, and Sydney recorded decreases in the retail price level during the quarter, while the only increase was in Perth. Melbourne and Hobart were unchanged. Percentage variations from March quarter, 1962, were as follows:- Brisbane, -0.3; Adelaide, -0.2; Sydney, -0.1; and Perth, +0.2. The weighted average decrease for the six capitals was 0.1 per cent.

Since the base year, 1952-53, Hobart has shown a relatively greater increase in retail prices than other capital cities, Brisbane having recorded the next highest, while the smallest increase has occurred in Perth. Percentage increases from 1952-53 to June quarter, 1962, are as follows:- Hobart, 27.5; Brisbane, 27.3; Melbourne, 25.9; Sydney, 22.3; Adelaide, 21.9; and Perth, 21.8.

COMMONWEALTH AND STATE BASIC WAGE RATES

Commonwealth and State basic wage rates are reviewed by the appropriate Industrial Authorities from time to time - in some cases at fairly regular intervals and in others as a result of special applications for variation of the wage rate. The last variation made by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission was an addition of 12s. to the male basic wage, with corresponding adjustments to the female and juvenile rates, and operated from 7th July, 1961.

The Queensland Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1961 abolished automatic quarterly reviews of the State basic wage, but the Industrial Commission was empowered to vary the wage after a general hearing on the applications of interested parties. The last variation to the basic wage made by the Commission was an increase of 4s. for males and 3s. for females operative from 29th May, 1961. Two applications from employees' organisations seeking an increase in the basic wage have been lodged with the Commission. One seeks a variation consequent upon changes in the Consumer Price Index since the current rates were fixed; the other seeks a general review of the basic wage.

Current Commonwealth and State basic wage rates are shown in the following table.

Basic Wage Rates - Australian Capital Cities

Capital City	Commonwealth Basic Wage			State Basic Wage		
	Males	Females	Date of Operation ^a	Males	Females	Date of Operation
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Brisbane	13 10 0	10 2 6	7.7.61	14 4 0	10 13 0	29. 5.61
Sydney	14 15 0	11 1 0	7.7.61	14 19 0	11 4 6	1. 8.62a
Melbourne	14 7 0	10 15 0	7.7.61	14 7 0	10 15 0	July, 61b
Adelaide	14 3 0	10 12 0	7.7.61	14 3 0	10 12 0	10. 7.61a
Perth	14 8 0	10 16 0	7.7.61	14 18 9	11 4 1	30.10.61
Hobart	14 14 0	11 0 6	7.7.61	14 14 0	11 0 6	July, 61b

a From the first pay period commencing on or after the date shown.

b Most Wages Boards adopted the Commonwealth rate during July, 1961.

S. E. SOLOMON
DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN
AND GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN

320-330 Adelaide Street,
BRISBANE

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Consumer Price Index - Total and Group Indexes - Brisbane
(Year 1952-53 = 100.0)

Period	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscell- aneous	All Groups
Year -						
1952-53	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1953-54	103.4	100.9	101.6	101.7	101.7	102.0
1954-55	104.1	101.3	104.7	102.5	102.0	102.9
1955-56	107.7	102.2	110.5	102.6	108.0	106.3
1956-57	111.5	104.7	118.4	106.5	118.9	112.0
1957-58	113.0	107.8	123.9	108.3	120.5	114.4
1958-59	119.8	109.4	128.4	109.0	123.6	118.2
1959-60	124.2	111.9	132.6	110.6	125.6	121.2
1960-61	130.4	115.1	137.6	111.3	129.5	125.4
1961-62	130.8	116.7	140.5	113.0	133.3	127.3
Quarter -						
1961 - June ..	130.5	116.1	139.0	112.3	130.3	126.1
September ..	132.5	116.3	139.7	113.0	130.7	127.0
December ..	129.7	116.7	140.2	112.9	134.0	127.1
1962 - March ..	131.4	116.8	140.3	113.2	134.3	127.7
June ..	129.4	116.8	141.9	113.0	134.3	127.3
Percentage Increase or Decrease (-) on Previous Quarter						
Quarter -						
1961 - June ..	-2.6	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.5	-0.5
September ..	1.5	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.7
December ..	-2.1	0.3	0.4	-0.1	2.5	0.1
1962 - March ..	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.5
June ..	-1.5	-	1.1	-0.2	-	-0.3

Consumer Price Index - Capital Cities
(Year 1952-53 = 100.0 for Each City and for Six Capitals)

As the base for each city is 100.0, the indexes in the table below do not indicate relative price levels as between cities, but they may be used to compare relative price movements in the various cities.

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average, Six Capitals
Year -							
1952-53	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1953-54	101.6	102.0	102.0	102.3	103.0	105.0	102.0
1954-55	102.3	102.0	102.9	103.5	105.2	104.9	102.6
1955-56	105.7	108.1	106.3	106.9	107.9	110.2	106.9
1956-57	112.9	114.0	112.0	111.1	112.9	116.9	113.1
1957-58	114.5	114.4	114.4	111.9	113.6	117.0	114.2
1958-59	115.3	116.6	118.2	114.5	114.7	118.7	116.0
1959-60	117.8	120.0	121.2	118.0	116.9	120.8	118.9
1960-61	122.1	125.9	125.4	122.9	121.2	127.5	123.8
1961-62	122.6	126.3	127.3	122.5	121.6	128.1	124.3
Quarter -							
1961 - June ..	123.4	127.1	126.1	124.3	122.4	128.9	125.0
September ..	123.1	126.8	127.0	123.5	121.7	129.1	124.8
December ..	122.5	126.5	127.1	122.5	121.3	128.3	124.3
1962 - March ..	122.4	125.9	127.7	122.1	121.5	127.5	124.1
June ..	122.3	125.9	127.3	121.9	121.8	127.5	124.0